Sanjayan is a conservation scientist and CEO of Conservation International, the global nonprofit dedicated to securing the critical benefits that nature provides to humanity – from a stable climate and productive oceans to the food and freshwater necessary for sustainable livelihoods. Sanjayan joined Conservation International in 2014, overseeing its successful $1.1 billion capital campaign and its critically acclaimed brand campaign, “Nature Is Speaking.” He was named CEO in 2017.

Sanjayan’s unique background—he was raised in South Asia and West Africa—has informed his work, particularly his inclusive approach to community-led conservation. He has published many scientific papers and co-edited a book, Connectivity Conservation, Cambridge University Press. An accomplished communicator, Sanjayan has hosted more than a dozen award-winning documentaries. His work has earned him coverage from outlets ranging from The New York Times to Outside magazine, and as an Emmy nominated contributor to CBS Evening News. He also serves as a Distinguished Professor of Practice at Arizona State University.